

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 0.

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
M.R.S.I.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss M.W. Burns (Resigned 25th August, 1950).

Miss A.O. Gale (Appointed 1st October, 1950).

Telephone:

Ross 214

County Offices,

Alton Street,

Ross-on-Wye.

SANITARY INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING
DESIGNATED OFFICER

+ Mr. G.E. Hardy, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

+∅ Mr. C.W. J. Manley, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.

+ Certificate as Meat and Food Inspector.

∅ Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

CLERK TO THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Mr. C.H. Scruby.

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Ross 511

"Woodside",

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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The Report is submitted in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 2/50 of the Ministry of Health.

The classification of causes of death in this Report is based, for the first time, on the Abbreviated List of International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

My thanks are due to Colonel N. Blake of the Ross Water Undertaking, for information respecting the water supplies provided within the area by the Ross Water Undertaking.

Also, I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given me, not only in the preparation of this Report but throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. D. Thomas, Clerk to the Council, and Mr. G. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor to the Council.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

William Hagg

Medical Officer of Health.

20th July, 1951.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

Chairman of the Council - Major H.S.Allfrey, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council - Mr. L. Drayson Russill.

Mrs. I. Harding.	...	Aston Ingham.
Mr. L. Drayson Russill.	...	Ballingham.
Mr. H.E. Sainsbury.	...	Brampton Abbotts.
Mr. B.C. Hackett.	...	Bridstow.
Mr. G.L. Clay, J.P.	...	Brockhampton.
Mr. G. Bevan.	...	Foy.
Mr. H.W. Parish.	...	Ganarew.
Brig. Gen. T.R.F. Bate, C.M.G., J.P.	...	Garway.
Vice Admiral J.L. Pearson, C.M.G., J.P.	...	Goodrich.
Mr. H.W. Badger.	...	Harewood End and Llandinabo.
Mrs. M.J. Williamson.	...	Hentland.
Mr. R.D. Margrett.	...	Hope Mansel.
Major H.S. Allfrey, J.P.	...	How Caple and Sollershope.
Mr. R.J. Jenkins.	...	Kings Caple.
Mr. G. Savidge.	...	Lea.
Mr. W. Morris.	...	Linton.
Mr. J.B. Sainsbury.	...	Linton.
Mr. C. Freer, J.P.	...	Llangarron.
Mr. J.F. Maclean, J.P.	...	Llangarron.
Mr. J.R. Ravenhill.	...	Llanrothal.
Mr. J.J. Rosser.	...	Llanwarne.
Mr. G.W. Banfield.	...	Marstow.
Mr. C. King.	...	Pencoyd.
Mr. H.C. Teague.	...	Peterstow.
Mr. H.T. Allen.	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. G.F. Webb.	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. J. Bowen.	...	St. Weonards.
Mr. E.P.C. Whittal.	...	Sellack.
Mr. T.W. Dew.	...	Tretire and Michaelchurch.
Mr. A.T. Powell.	...	Upton Bishop.
Mr. A.E. Thompson.	...	Upton Bishop.
Mr. R. Pashley, J.P.	...	Walford.
Mrs. D. Trafford.	...	Walford.
Mr. A.R. Bowen.	...	Welsh Bicknor.
Mr. H.R. Biggs.	...	Welsh Newton.
Mr. G.A. Biggs.	...	Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. A.H. Evans.	...	Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. H.S. Cumbley.	...	Whitchurch.
Mr. J. King.	...	Whitchurch.
Mr. R.F. Cotton.	...	Yatton.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Ross and Whitchurch Rural District lies in the south of the County of Hereford, surrounding the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye, and is divided into eastern and western parts, of roughly equal area, by the winding course of the River Wye. These two divisions are connected by road bridges at Hoarwithy, Foy (pedestrians only), Wilton, Kerne Bridge and Huntsham.

The area is purely rural in character; all phases of agriculture are found within the District. The production of timber provides some employment, and the attractive scenery and the reputation of the River Wye gives rise to a significant catering trade. Limestone quarries are worked in the Whitchurch area and at Gorsley.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Area in acres.	...	72,105
Registrar General's estimated resident population.	...	11.830
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.50).	...	3,430
Rateable Value.	...	£42,475
Sum represented by penny rate.	...	£172. 16. 6d.
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (Crude).	...	15.05
Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population.	...	17.3
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.	...	37.8
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population (Crude).	...	12.9
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population.	...	10.4
Area comparability factor (Births)....		1.15
Area comparability factor (Deaths)....		0.80

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000</u>
Heading No.30	Nil	<u>total births.</u>
		Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live births.	33.7
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	30.5
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	71.4

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated population is 11,830 which compares with 11,850 for the previous year. The census population for 1921 is 11,859 and that for the last census year (1931) is 11,608. These figures show no very significant trend of population. The natural increase of population (the excess of live births over deaths) is 25 which compares with a natural increase for 1949 of 51.

The population is contained in 3,430 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.44. The gross density of dwellings for the District is 0.048 dwellings per acre. The average number of persons per acre is 0.164.

The parish having the largest area is Llangarron with 5,411 acres, whilst the smallest is Llandinabo with 500 acres. There are 28 parishes containing over 1000 acres. The parish having the largest population is Walford.

Births.

The number of live births registered as having occurred within the Rural District during the year is 178 (83 males and 95 females), and the unadjusted live birth rate is 17.3 per 1000 of the estimated population. For the year 1949, the corresponding figure is 17.6 per 1000. The Area Comparability Factor is 1.15, and applying this to the crude birth rate, the adjusted live birth rate/...

is 17.3 per 1000 population. The live birth rate of England and Wales for the year is 15.8 per 1000 population, so that the local rate remains slightly greater than the national rate.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred during the year under review is 14 (9 males and 5 females). For the previous year this figure is 11. The illegitimate live births form 7.9% of the total live births, a ratio slightly higher than that for the year 1949 (5.2%). The legitimate live birth rate is 13.9 per 1000 population, whilst the illegitimate live birth rate is 1.18 per 1000 population. The ratio male/female live births is 0.87.

Stillbirths.

Seven still births are recorded (4 male and 3 female) and the still birth rate is therefore 37.8 per 1000 total births. This figure is greater than that for the previous year when 1 still birth produced a still birth rate of 4.8 per 1000 total births.

Using the estimated population as the basis, the still birth rate for the Rural District is 0.59 per 1000 population - somewhat greater than the England and Wales still birth rate of 0.37 per 1000 total population for the year. The ratio of male/female still births is 1.3. One still birth occurred out of wedlock.

Deaths.

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the District during the year is 153 (78 males and 75 females). This total is obtained after deducting the number of deaths of non-residents which occurred within the District and adding the number of deaths of residents which took place in other areas. It is almost identical with the number of deaths during 1949 which is 154 (77 males and 77 females). The ratio of male/female deaths is 1.04.

The crude death rate for the Rural District for the year is 12.99 per 1000 population, and applying the area comparability factor of 0.80 the corrected death rate is 10.4 per 1000 population - a rate showing no change on the previous year. The death rate for England and Wales for the year is 11.6 per 1000 population.

Table of Deaths from Various Causes according to Sex and Mortality Rates.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Female.	Person.	Adjusted Death rate per 1000 Population
1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	4	-	4	0.27
5.	Whooping Cough.	-	1	1	0.07
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	1	1	2	0.14
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease.	-	1	1	0.07
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	6	2	8	0.54
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung (bronchus).	2	1	3	0.21
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.07
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	2	2	0.14
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	7	13	0.88
15.	Leukemia, aleukemia.	1	-	1	0.07
16.	Diabetes.	-	1	1	0.07
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	8	12	20	1.35
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	7	2	9	0.61
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	3	2	5	0.34
20.	Heart Disease.	15	25	40	2.70
21.	Other circulatory disease.	3	2	5	0.34
23.	Pneumonia.	1	2	3	0.21
24.	Bronchitis.	4	-	4	0.27
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1	0.07
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	1	1	2	0.14
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	2	2	0.14
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	3	1	4	0.27
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	9	8	17	1.15
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents.	1	-	1	0.07
34.	All other Accidents.	2	1	3	0.21
	All Causes.	78	75	153	10.40

An analysis of deaths by cause shows that the greatest number is due to heart diseases (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 54 deaths. This is a usual experience and happens every year. The death rate from these causes calculates out at 4.56 per 1000 population (crude) or 3.65 per 1000 population (comparative).

Vascular lesions of the nervous system accounted for 20 deaths (8 males and 12 females) and is the second commonest cause of death. The rates from this cause are 1.69 (crude) and 1.35 (corrected) per 1000 population.

Cancer Deaths.

This year 27 deaths are due to cancer of all types (14 males and 13 females) giving a crude death rate from cancer of all sites of 2.28 per 1000 population. This is higher than the rate for 1949 which was 1.69 per 1000 population. The corrected death rate from all forms of cancer for the year is 2.12 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female deaths from all forms of cancer is 1.076.

Infant Mortality.

The number of babies under the age of one year who died is 6 (2 males and 4 females). Of these infants, five were legitimate infants and the infant mortality rate is 33.7 per 1000 live births. This rate is higher than that for England and Wales which is 29.8 per 1000 live births, and is higher than the Rural District rate for 1949, when 4 infants died and produced an infant mortality rate of 19.2 per 1000 live births. Nevertheless, the infant mortality rate for the Rural District is lower than in 1948.

Since there was one death of a female illegitimate infant, the illegitimate infant mortality rate is 71.4 per 1000 illegitimate live births, whilst the legitimate mortality rate is 30.5 per 1000 legitimate live births.

Neonatal Mortality Rate.

All except one of the infant deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life; the neonatal mortality rate is, therefore, 28.1 per 1000 live births. The legitimate neonatal mortality rate is 24.4 per 1000 legitimate live births and the illegitimate rate is 71.4 per 1000 illegitimate live births.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease.

The only notifiable infectious diseases recorded as cause of death are whooping cough, acute poliomyelitis and pneumonia. The following table shows the number of deaths according to cause, and shows the mortality rates for the year.

Disease.	Deaths		Corrected District D.R.	D.R. (Eng- land and Wales).	Mortality per 1000 notifications.
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>			
Whooping Cough.	-	1	0.07	0.01	15.2
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1	1	0.14	0.2	166.6
Pneumonia.	1	2	0.21	0.46	230.7
Infectious Disease.	2	4	0.42	0.76	-

Tuberculosis Deaths.

Four deaths are attributed to tuberculosis of the respiratory system. All were males and the adjusted death rate for this disease is 0.27 per 1000 population. The death rate from this cause for England and Wales is 0.36 per 1000 population.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREAPublic Health Laboratory.

The Public Health Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. D.R. Christie, remained unchanged, at the County Offices, Hereford, and continued to provide facilities for the usual public health investigations. This Laboratory is of the utmost value in assisting the work of the Department.

The following table gives the number of investigations undertaken on behalf of the Department during the year:-

Swabs	...	11
Sputa	...	10
Blood	...	4
Urine (Bacteria)	...	63
" (Chemical)	...	1
Faeces	...	82
Ice Cream	...	25
Milk for organisms	...	2
Milk for tuberculosis	...	3
" (Methylene Blue Test)	...	163
Water (bacteriological)	...	116
Total		<hr/> 480

In addition 3 samples of water were submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr. Rowland Ellis, for chemical examination.

Public Mortuary.

The Council has an arrangement with the Ross-on-Wye Urban District Council for the reception of bodies from the Rural District at the Public Mortuary, Homs Road, Ross-on-Wye. During the year 8 bodies were removed from the Rural District to the Public Mortuary.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals situated within the District. The needs of the population in this respect are met by hospitals at Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Gloucester and Monmouth.

Ambulances.

Ambulances are provided in the adjacent towns for the use of persons residing within the Rural District.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The prevailing geological formation of the District is Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System with an outcrop of Silurian limestone along the south eastern boundary from Upton Bishop to Gorsley and Aston Ingham. In the parishes of Walford and Whitchurch, along the southern boundary of the District, there is an outcrop of carboniferous limestone.

The Old Red Sandstone is represented chiefly by red and green sandstones and marl with outcrops of Old Red Conglomerate in some areas. The carboniferous limestone in the Whitchurch area contains numerous caverns, some of which are of great age and there is evidence of their use as stone age dwellings.

The Old Red Sandstone is a porous rock, somewhat brittle and prone to weather badly. It is therefore, unsuitable for building purposes, but was used for this purpose in former times, there being a number of old quarry sites within the area. During the wet periods, numerous shallow springs arise which rapidly disappear when dry weather supervenes.

It is usually said that the Old Red Sandstone is not a particularly good water bearing stratum, and wells and springs of the area are somewhat unreliable during spells of dry weather.

Water Supplies.

In the area immediately surrounding the Urban District, the mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a constant supply of wholesome water at adequate pressure throughout the year in the parishes of Ross Rural and in parts of the parishes of Bridstow, Walford and Weston-under-Penyard.

The numbers of dwelling houses supplied from the Water Undertaking mains in these parishes are:-

Bridstow	...	132
Ross Rural	...	98
Walford	...	42
Weston-under-Penyard	...	5

All these supplies are by means of service pipes to the dwellings with the exception of 7 dwellings in Bridstow supplied by standpipes. During the year 6 domestic standpipe supplies in this parish were converted to separate services.

The water of the Ross Water Undertaking is obtained from boreholes in the Old Red Sandstone at the Alton Court Works; the water is of good potable quality, though somewhat hard. It requires no preliminary treatment other than chlorination, this being applied as the water passes through the rising main leading to the covered reservoir on Chase Hill.

As a result of the chlorination treatment applied, it is frequently found that the water as it issues from the tap is sterile. Facilities exist for obtaining samples of the water before treatment, and tests have shown that the number of organisms per 100 c.cs. in the untreated water is very low.

An extension of the mains of the Undertaking was carried out during the year at Pool Mill, Bridstow; the 3" diameter main being extended 167 yards to supply eight dwellings and the Council's new housing site.

The Rural District Council has provided piped water supplies in the parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Garway and Harewood End, each producing a constant supply of potable water.

Brampton Abbotts Supply.

Brampton Abbotts is supplied from water purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking. A small reservoir (capacity 12,000 gallons) and pumping station with automatic electric pumps is provided. The scheme supplies 36 dwellings by means of separate services and 4 others are supplied by standpipes. The water is of excellent potable quality and was adequate in quantity during the year. In November, a scheme to secure an improved supply to this area was commenced.

Garway Supply.

This scheme makes use of a land spring which is impounded on high ground. The yield of the spring is subject to considerable variation according to the local rainfall. but for the present is adequate for the demand. The water is put into supply without preliminary treatment. The number of dwellings supplied is 69, and 7 are supplied by means of 4 standpipes.

Llangarron Supply.

This piped water supply, which supplies part of Llangarron parish, utilises spring water, pumped to the reservoirs situated at an appropriate level. The water is passed into supply without preliminary treatment and is adequate for present demands. The yield of the spring is subject to variation correlated with the rainfall. The scheme supplies 128 dwellings by individual services and 17 dwellings are supplied by 10 standpipes.

The power for the pump is furnished by a water wheel with a diesal set as a reserve source of power. Flooding of the river is liable to interfere with this supply.

Llancloudy Supply.

This is a separate scheme which supplies the Llancloudy area of Llangarron parish. The water of a land spring is collected and piped to 10 dwellings. There is one standpipe on this supply.

As the quality of the water has not been entirely satisfactory a chlorinator is provided. This supply has been inadequate for the demand in the past, but this now appears to have been overcome as a breakout spring has been diverted into the reservoir of the Local Authority.

Harewood End Supply.

This small scheme was purchased by the Council in 1944. Water is pumped from a shallow well by power supplied by overshot water wheel with an internal combustion engine as an auxiliary power unit. The scheme supplies 28 dwellings by piped services.

If all the schemes of the Local Authority and the Ross Water Undertaking are considered together, it will be seen that 568 dwellings within the area are supplied from mains.

In addition to the piped supplies provided by the Statutory Undertakers and the Local Authority, there are small piped schemes in the ownership of private individuals. These private mains give supplies in the parishes of Bridstow, Brockhampton, Foy, Ganarew, Goodrich, Hentland, Hope Mansel, How Caple, Lea, Marstow, Pencoyd, Weston, Upton Bishop, Whitchurch, Walford, St. Weonards, and Welsh Newton. These schemes utilise water from a variety of sources and are of various degrees of mechanical soundness. The Department cannot exercise more than a slight supervision of these supplies. The number of dwellings supplied in each case varies from 2 to 73 in the largest. The total dwellings obtaining supplies from these private mains is 463.

The remaining dwellings are supplied from public or private wells and a significant number depend upon the collection of rainwater. The wells are usually of the shallow type and many cannot be regarded as satisfactory sources of potable water. One public well failed during the year - the Bromsash Well in Weston-under-Penyard parish. To overcome the difficulty, the Council delivered water regularly to this area. The rather wet summer of this year enabled many of the shallow wells to continue to supply water throughout the year.

In general, it can be said that the existing supplies of the area are not adequate in quantity and that part of the population is obliged to rely upon waters of indifferent potable quality. These deficiencies are not uniformly distributed in the area, but the parishes of Whitchurch, Sellack, Hentland, St. Weonards, Goodrich, Peterstow and Ballingham have most pressing needs.

Being aware that the water supplies of the area were not entirely satisfactory, the Council took further steps towards the provision of a comprehensive piped supply for the greater part of the area, and preparations were made to obtain the Minister's consent towards raising the money necessary to carry this proposal into effect. This scheme is based upon the distribution of water in a system of mains originating from boreholes at Castlebrook, Walford.

The very large number of separate sources of supply renders control of potable waters by your officers very difficult, so a few routine samples and samples of water that are suspected, represents the results of the year. The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination was 116, and the number of samples submitted for chemical examination was 3. A bacteriological examination of water is useful as a rapid test for routine purposes and as confirmation of waters whose pollution is suspected.

The Council found that the inadequate water supplies within the area were restrictive factors in connection with plans for post-war housing and gave consideration to the development of interim water schemes for certain parts of the area, such schemes to be so constructed as to be capable of being incorporated into the proposed comprehensive scheme with the minimum cost and inconvenience. Such proposals covered the following areas:- Ballingham, Hoarwithy, St. Weonards and Llanwarne, but all these were abandoned except the St. Weonards scheme.

No waters in the area appear to have any significant solvent action upon common metals.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two short lengths of public sewer within the District, one at Upton Bishop and the other in Goodrich parish. Both are small and provide drainage for a few properties; the disposal arrangements are somewhat crude. A short length of private sewer at Hildersley in the parish of Ross Rural was adopted as a public sewer during the year. No extensions of sewers were made during the year, but the construction of new sewage disposal works for the Goodrich sewer was completed towards the end of the year.

Small sewage disposal works were constructed in connection with five sites for new Council houses, at Lea and Bridstow (12 dwellings), Llangarron (8 dwellings) and Garway and Llangrove (6 dwellings).

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 147 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 62, and 27 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed or repaired was 34. It was found necessary to make 164 inspections in connection with drainage.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks other than those on the Council's own property.

Rivers and Streams.

The winding course of the River Wye divides the District into eastern and western parts, these being approximately equal in area. The River Garron runs through the western side, receiving its tributary, the Gamber, at Llangarron and finally joins the River Wye at Old Forge, Goodrich.

All these rivers flow through rural country and are clean and unobjectionable; proof of this lies in the fact that game fish are plentiful. No action by the Department or by the Council to prevent or abate river pollution was necessary during the year. Since a regular system of collection of domestic refuse has been in operation, the depositing of refuse in the rivers and streams of the District has ceased to occur.

The River Wye is liable to rapid rise and fall during periods of heavy rain and snow, and flooding of the land adjacent to the river is common at these periods.

The River Wye appears to attract swimmers in certain parts of the District, but as there is at least one death from drowning each year, it would appear that swimmers should have adequate skill and some knowledge of the river.

Closet Accommodation.

The commonest type of closet in use in the District is the pail closet, and it is estimated that 60% of the inhabitants use this type. A further estimated 15% are still obliged to use privies and it is considered that the remaining 25% enjoy the use of water closets. The reason for the continued wide use of conservancy systems is chiefly the lack of piped water supplies.

During the year 12 privies and 27 pail closets were converted to water closets. In addition, 18 privies were converted to pail closets. Fairly satisfactory progress continued to be made in the provision of closet accommodation. Apart from conversions 33 water closets were provided.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of privies and pail closets other than those on the Council's property. No public conveniences are provided by the Council, but need of provision in the Whitchurch area exists. This parish has a significant influx of day visitors during the holiday season.

Public Cleansing.

Throughout the year, a collection of domestic refuse was operated in all parts of the District by the Council. The collection is carried out by a properly constructed tipping freighter, provided with adjustable covers. With a single vehicle it has not been found possible to make a collection more frequently than once a month from all accessible dwelling houses.

The domestic refuse collection is tipped on two sites, one situated at Deep Dean, in Walford parish, and the other at Tre-essey in Llangarron parish. The use of two tips avoids the necessity for uneconomic long hauls, but four tips would appear to offer still greater advantages in this direction. Some measure of control of tipping is in operation at the tips, which is sufficient for the purpose, and the present method of disposal would appear to be the only practicable method available to the Council. Such a method of disposal may ultimately be of some benefit as a means of filling in excavated areas.

During the year, the vehicle with its crew of two men travelled 14,640 miles, conveying 528 loads of 10 cubic yards each. The average mileage per load is 26 miles. These figures show a small reduction on the corresponding figures of the previous year. The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse.

The domestic refuse collected has a low organic content, being chiefly composed of tins, bottles and other incombustible articles. The risk of spontaneous combustion on the tips is, therefore, very low.

The Council has no duties in connection with street cleansing, and there are no public baths or washhouses within the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public on payment within the District. No action by the Department was, therefore, necessary.

Shops and Offices.

The number of shops and offices within the District is very small, and no action was taken under the Public Health Act 1936.

Camping Sites.

The number of licensed sites in the area used for camping purposes during the year was 5. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers resident in the area at any one time was 75. All sites are inspected during the season, 16 inspections being made, and attention is given to the water supply, refuse disposal and closet accommodation.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No Council houses or other houses were found to be infested with bed-bugs, and disinfection was not required. In the past such disinfections have been carried out by contractors using hydrogen cyanide, a measure not without some risk.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses within the Rural District.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement for the year 1950, furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections.

Accumulations.	...	27
Bakehouses.	...	18
Caravans.	...	12
Camping Sites.	...	16
Dairies.	...	14
Drainage.	...	164
Drain Tests.	...	147
Filthy and Verminous Premises (infested with fleas).	...	1
Factories (without mechanical power).	...	30
Factories (with mechanical power).	...	16
Ice Cream (registered premises).	...	25
Infectious Disease.	...	20
Schools.	...	12
Unsound Food.	...	17
Water Supply.	...	156
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1935).	...	89
Housing (Other).	...	486
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens.	...	3
Rats and Mice.	...	4
Total		<u>1257</u>

Notices Issued.

Informal.	...	74
Statutory re housing.	...	15
Statutory under other Acts.	...	3
Total		<u>92</u>

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Accumulations removed.	...	27
Drains and Gullies cleared.	...	15
Drains repaired.	...	10
Drains reconstructed.	...	34
New Drains provided.	...	52
Defective Floors repaired.	...	81
Defective Roofs repaired.	...	67
Defective Eaves and Gutters repaired.	...	42
Defective Brickwork repaired.	...	56
Defective Coppers remedied.	...	6
Disinfections after Infectious Disease.	...	20
Defective Windows repaired.	...	74
Defective Chimneys repaired.	...	38
Dampness of Walls and Floors remedied.	...	18
Closets repaired.	...	12
Dairies reconstructed.	...	1
Filthy and Verminous Premises cleansed.	...	1
New Gullies provided.	...	6
Inspection Chambers repaired.	...	6
Inspection Chambers provided.	...	74
Old Drains sealed.	...	8
Privies converted to pail closets.	...	17
Pail closets converted to water closets.	...	28
Privies converted to water closets.	...	16
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired.	...	38
New Sinks provided.	...	21
Soil pipes repaired.	...	38
Sanitary Fittings provided.	...	45
Urinals repaired.	...	2
Wells cleansed or repaired.	...	18
Water supplies provided.	...	16
Miscellaneous Defects remedied.	...	179
Total Defects remedied.		<u>1076</u>

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

There are 31 factories within the area registered with the Local Authority, 16 of these being factories with mechanical power. Altogether 76 inspections were made. Five defects were discovered and remedied.

There are no outworkers now on the register.

Factory Form 572 (Revised).

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1950, for the Rural District of Ross and Whitchurch in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	25	30	1	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	16	16	-	-
Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers Premises).	12	30	-	-
Total	53	76	1	-

SECTION D - HOUSING

Progress in the erection of new dwellings by the Local Authority continued to be fairly satisfactory, as 13 new houses were completed and occupied, whilst a further 57 houses were under construction, but incomplete at the end of the year. This year saw the completion of the Council's hundredth house of the post war housing scheme. The 13 completed dwellings were situated at Kings Caple (8 dwellings) and Bridstow (5 dwellings) and the remaining 57 were in the parishes of Bridstow (19), Brampton Abbots (8), Garway (6), Lea (10) and Llangarron (14). These houses brought the number of dwellings provided by the Council to 125, located according to parish as shown in the following table:-

	<u>Occupied.</u>	<u>Under Construction.</u>
Brampton Abbots	6	8
Bridstow	9	19
Brockhampton	12	-
Hentland	8	-
How Caple	4	-
Lea	4	10
Kings Caple	8	8
Linton	6	-
Llangarron.	12	14
Garway	6	6

(Contd.)

	<u>Occupied.</u>	<u>Under Construction.</u>
Marstow	8	-
Peterstow	3	-
Ross Rural	2	-
Upton Bishop	4	-
Walford	10	-
Welsh Newton	1	-
Whitchurch	14	-
Weston-under-Penyard.	4	-
Yatton	4	-
	<u>125</u>	<u>57</u>

The houses erected by the Council are semi-detached pairs with some variation in plan and exterior treatment, and with the provision of adequate space and amenities. In no instance can the dwellings be said not to harmonise with the surroundings, an important point in a Rural District which has much attractive scenery. The design of the houses is such that the occupants live in a house free from unhealthy and inconvenient defects. Such dwellings should promote health and increase the average expectation of life, but the cost of erection having a bearing upon rent is a factor which cannot be disregarded. An excessive rent will tend to lower the standard of living of the occupants.

As there were 3430 occupied dwellings within the area at the end of the year, the proportion of those owned by the Council is just over $3\frac{1}{2}\%$.

The lack of adequate water supplies is perhaps, the most important local condition limiting the erection of new houses.

The following tables may be of interest as showing the phases of the Council's Building Schemes:-

Pre-war houses - under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts

Linton	6
Peterstow	3
Welsh Newton	1
	<u>10</u>

Others

Ross Rural	2
Walford	2
	<u>4</u>

War Emergency Cottages (Agricultural Workers)

Brampton Abbotts.	2
Garway	2
Llangarron.	6
	<u>10</u>

Post War Housing

	<u>Occupied.</u>	<u>Under Construction.</u>
Brampton Abbotts	4	8
Bridstow	9	19
Brockhampton	12	-
Garway	4	6
Hentland	8	-
How Caple	4	-
Lea	4	10
Kings Caple	8	-
Llangarron	6	14
Marstow	8	-
Upton Bishop	4	-
Walford	8	-
Whitchurch	14	-
Weston-under-Penyard	4	-
Yatton	4	-
	<u>101</u>	<u>57</u>

In addition to dwelling completed by the Council, private persons succeeded in completing 20 dwellings, whilst 9 houses were under construction but incomplete at the end of the year. The following table shows the location of these according to parish:-

	<u>Complete.</u>	<u>Under Erection.</u>
Bridstow	2	1
Llanwarne	2	-
Hope Mansel	-	1
Marstow	4	-
Peterstow	1	1
St. Weonards	1	1
Ross Rural	2	3
Upton Bishop	4	-
Whitchurch	4	-
Weston-under-Penyard	-	1
Walford.	-	1
	<u>20</u>	<u>9</u>

It is the general experience of persons erecting houses that building progress is subject to delays. Nevertheless, these houses do make some contribution towards the provision of housing accommodation within the area.

Overcrowding is almost absent within the area. At the beginning of the year 1 dwelling was known to be overcrowded, and 3 cases were found during the year. One case was relieved during the year, so that when the year closed 3 overcrowded dwellings were known to the department.

Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	486
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purposes.	609
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head 1 (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932..	89
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purposes.	106
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ..	9
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	80

Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	117
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	6
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
	(i) By Owners	Nil
	(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	Nil

2.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	...	2
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-		
(i)	By Owners.	...	2
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil
3.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	...	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	...	Nil
4.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(a)	Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	...	Nil
(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	...	Nil

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	...	3
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein.	...	2
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein.	...	20
(d)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	...	3
(e)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	...	1
(f)	Number of persons concerned in (e) above.	...	8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Proceedings under the Housing Act 1949.

<u>Section 2</u>	The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation.	...	Nil
<u>Section 4</u>	(a) The number of new dwellings provided by construction with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	...	Nil
	(b) The number of new dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	...	Nil
<u>Section 15</u>	(a) The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by conversion of houses or other buildings.	...	Nil
	(b) The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority.	...	Nil

<u>Section 20</u>	(a) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings. ... Nil
	(b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings. ... 1

Housing Survey.

Analysis of Inspections carried out during period 1.1.50-31.12.50

Parish.	Classification			Total		Remarks.
	1.	2.	3/4	5.	Inspected.	
Linton		10	59	2	71) Inspections not completed for these parishes.
St. Weonards			11	3	14	
Upton Bishop				4	4	
Total		10	70	9	89	
Add total inspections in 1945/49	128	424	1302	247	2101	
Grand Total	128	434	1372	256	2190	

Classifications:-

- Group 1. Houses fit in all respects for habitation.
 2. Houses requiring minor repairs and/or alterations.
 3.) Houses requiring major repairs and/or alterations.
 4.) Houses requiring major repairs and/or alterations.
 5. Houses scheduled for demolition.

The housing survey has now been completed in the following parishes:-

Aston Ingham, Ballingham, Brampton Abbotts, Bridstow, Ganarew, Goodrich, Hentland, Harewood, Hope Mansel, Kings Caple, Lea, Llandinabo, Llangarron, Llanwarne, Marstow, Pencoyd, Peterstow, Ross Rural, Sellack, Tretire, Welsh Bicknor, Welsh Newton, Walford, Weston-under-Penyard, Whitchurch.

The surevey has not yet been completed of the following parishes:-

Brockhampton, Foy, Garway, How Caple, Linton, Llanrothal, Sollershope, St. Weonards, Upton Bishop, Yatton.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council was four. Fourteen inspections were made during the year and one dairy was reconstructed.

Three samples of milk were sent for biological examination for tuberculosis. The presence of tuberculosis bacillus was found in one sample and the supply was stopped. As the dairy concerned was situated outside of the Rural District the information was forwarded to the County Medical Officer, and the Medical Officer of Health for that District.

There are no pasteurisation plants or milk sterilising plants within the area. No dealers or supplementary dealers' licences for the sale of sterilised or tuberculin tested milk were issued by the Council during the year. It would seem that there is no sale of pasteurised milk within the district, but there appears to be a small sale of heat treated milk.

There was no evidence that milk consumed in the area was causing any acute disease in man.

Two samples of milk were examined bacteriologically for the presence of haemolytic streptococci, a common organism causing sore throat; no evidence of this organism was found.

Ice Cream.

The sale of this food continued to be popular, and is of some significance during the summer months, especially in the Symonds Yat area. The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 2, and the number registered for the storage and sale was 6. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 25. Conditions were satisfactory and no

action/...

was required to be taken by the Department. The number of samples of this food submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination at various times during the season was 26, and 12 of these were classified as falling within provisional grade 1 and 9 within provisional grade 2. This is fairly satisfactory having regard to the prevailing climatic conditions of the summer.

Water Cress.

This food grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the District. There are no commercial beds within the area and the sale of water cress during the year was very small. No action was required by the Department regarding this food and no illness was attributed to the consumption of infected water cress.

Shell Fish.

No action by the Department was necessary in connection with shell fish offered for sale. The sale of shell fish appears to be very small, but occasionally Dutch and Portugese oysters are sold. The sale of mussels, cockles and similar shell fish is insignificant, and the tendency at the present time is for these to be sold cooked and packed in sealed jars.

Meat.

There are now no slaughterhouses in operation within the area, as these have remained closed since the early war period. All meat is obtained by traders from the regional abattoirs of the Ministry of Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.			Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known).	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected.	-	-	-	-	-
All diseases, except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-

The following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:

Quantity.	Food.	Cause of unsound- ness.
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ boxes	Cream Cheese.	Maggots.
1 can	Chopped Pork.	Blown tin.
3 cans	Potted Meat.	Blown tins.
1 can	Plums.	Blown tin.
3 cans	Peaches.	Blown tins.
1 can	Mixed Vegetables.	Blown tin.
2 cans	Peas.	Blown tins
4 cans	Condensed Milk.	Blown and damaged.
6 lbs.	Rendered Fat	Contaminated by dirt and insects.
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Sweetened Fat.	Contaminated by dirt and insects.
1 bottle	Sauce.	Fermentation.
1 can	Brussel Sprouts.	Perforated can.
2 cans	Vegetable Soup.	Decomposition.
5 cans	Tomatoes.	Blown tins.

Food Poisoning.

The number of food poisoning notifications received was two. This number shows an increase on the previous year (Nil). Both cases were confirmed and due to Salmonella Typhi Murium infection. Whilst both cases occurred in the third quarter there did not appear to be any connection between them. The article of food conveying infection was not detected - always a difficult matter in dealing with single cases of Salmonella infection.

SECTION F - PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease in the population of the area during the year shows a reduction from 283 in 1949 to 165 in the year under review. This reduction is due to lesser prevalence of measles from 221 cases in 1949 to 68 cases, and to the notification of 8 cases of scarlet fever as compared with 20 in the previous year. The incidence of whooping cough, however, increased from 18 cases to 66, and acute poliomyelitis showed greater prevalence.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious disease:

Disease.	<u>Notifications received during 1950</u>		England and Wales rates per 1000 population.
	Original Notifications.	Confirmed Cases.	
Dysentery.	2	2	0.14
Scarlet Fever.	8	8	0.58
Measles.	68	68	5.75
Pneumonia.	13	13	1.10
Whooping Cough.	66	66	5.58
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic).	4	4	0.34
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic).	3	2	0.14
Typhoid Fever.	2	2	0.14
Paratyphoid Fever.	1	1	0.08
Erysipelas.	1	1	0.08

There were no notifications of diphtheria or puerperal pyrexia. It will also be noticed that diagnosis was accurate and the efficiency of notification is fairly good.

Scarlet Fever.

Altogether 8 cases of scarlet fever were notified, this number being equally shared by the third and fourth quarters. The attack rate is 0.68 cases per 1000 population, which is lower than the rate for the year for England and Wales (1.50 per 1000). The disease was mild and there were no deaths. The age group showing the highest incidence was the 5 - 10 years group (5 cases). The incidence during 1950 was less than in 1949 when 20 cases occurred.

Measles.

The Rural District was almost completely free from measles during the first and second quarters of the year, only three notifications (two males and one female) were received. However, incidence began to increase in the third quarter (14 cases) and continued to do so in the last quarter (51 cases). Nevertheless, the incidence was not as great as during the previous year when 221 cases were notified. The incidence was slightly greater in females, 42 notifications against 26 notifications in males, and the age group showing the heaviest incidence was the 5-10 years group giving rise to 28 cases.

The disease was fairly mild and there were no deaths. The attack rate is 5.75 per 1000 population, which is to be compared with the morbidity rate for England and Wales of 8.39 per 1000 population.

Pneumonia.

The incidence of pneumonia showed a reduction - 13 cases occurred as against 19 of the previous year. This acute infectious disease caused three deaths, giving a corrected death rate of 0.26 per 1000 population, lower than the death rate for England and Wales (0.46 per 1000 population). The morbidity rate is 1.10 per 1000 population for the Rural District, which is to be compared with
the/....

rate for the year for England and Wales of 0.70 per 1000 population. The disease was most prevalent during the first quarter of the year (11 cases) and was absent during the third and fourth quarters. The incidence was almost equally shared between the sexes.

Whooping Cough.

The district was free from this disease during the first quarter. It appeared in the second quarter (6 cases) and continued in the third (9 cases), but began to spread more widely in the final quarter. The attack rate for the Rural District for the year is 5.58 per 1000 population; somewhat higher than the rate for England and Wales (3.60). The disease caused one death, giving a death rate for the District of 0.07 per 1000 population.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Unfortunately this disease again reappeared in the second half of the year. One paralytic case occurred in the third quarter, and this was followed by three paralytic cases and two non-paralytic cases in the fourth quarter. There was one male paralytic case, the remainder of the patients were females.

The proportion of non-paralytic cases was one third of the total number. All the patients were over 5 years of age, and there were two adult deaths, giving a corrected death rate for the Rural District of 0.14 per 1000 population, which is to be compared with the death rate for this disease for England and Wales for the year of 0.02 per 1000 population.

Other Diseases.

Two cases of typhoid fever were notified (contracted by contact with a carrier) and one case of paratyphoid fever occurred - infection having been acquired in another district.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain
Age Groups.

Disease.	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Age N.K.	All Ages.
Scarlet Fever.	-	1	-	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	8
Dysentery.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles.	1	8	18	28	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	68
Pneumonia.	-	-	3	2	1	-	3	1	-	3	-	13
Whooping Cough.	1	11	19	27	2	1	1	1	-	3	-	66
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic).	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	4
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic).	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Paratyphoid Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
All Diseases.	2	20	40	66	15	2	9	4	3	7	1	169

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year, there were 81 cases of tuberculosis on the register, (56 pulmonary and 25 non-pulmonary cases). During the year 16 cases were added (11 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary), of these 6 were new respiratory cases and 3 were new cases of non-respiratory disease. The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 20 (14 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary). At the end of the year, therefore, 77 cases remained on the register (53 pulmonary and 24 non-pulmonary cases). There was one male death attributed to pulmonary disease. Two pulmonary cases and three cases of non-respiratory disease were regarded as being recovered.

New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

Age Group.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory. M.	F.	Non-respiratory. M.	F.	Respiratory. M.	F.	Non-respiratory M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15+	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25+	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	-	2	1	1	-	-	-

